

Synopsis

Revised effective January 2004

The Board of Corrections (BOC) conducted a survey regarding average daily costs to house local inmates during calendar year 2002. The survey was conducted in response to numerous inquiries from state legislators and local policy makers regarding the cost to house an inmate in a local jail. In order update current cost figures by jurisdictions to develop a new statewide average, the Board of Corrections prepared a letter addressed to Sheriffs, Local Department of Corrections Directors, Type II Facilities operated by a Chief of Police, and Jail Managers¹ requesting their assistance to determine the current statewide average daily cost (ADC) to house an inmate in Type II or III local detention facility. This letter was mailed on January 23, 2003 to ninety-nine Type II and twenty-one Type III jail managers and administrators, along with a survey form².

The Board of Corrections suggested that each agency calculate their ADC by using the following formula: Using data from FY 2001-2002, divide the average daily population by facility (Type II and III) by your total per facility budget. Costs would include those for staff (including salaries and benefits), food, medical services, contract services with the private sector (e.g., food, medical) or with other county departments, maintenance, capital, or administrative costs. Included in this mailing, a survey form was provided to record the name of the Type II and/or Type III facility and the calculated ADC.

Fifty- five of fifty-eight counties responded to the survey, and ninety-six Type II and twenty-one Type III jails surveyed provided their ADC. Board of Corrections staff then analyzed the data to arrive at a statewide average daily cost to house inmates in Type II and III facilities³. The statewide weighted average daily cost to house inmates, based upon data provided to the Board of Corrections, is \$62.60 for Type II and III facilities.

This is the third time in 9 years that the Board of Corrections has tabulated data from local detention facilities to estimate the average daily cost to house inmates. The previous calculation was approximately \$58.59 per inmate, and this would indicate an increase in daily average cost of 9 % in the past 3 years.

¹ Appendix A Letter to Sheriffs, etc. dated January 23, 2003

² Appendix B Survey – Alphabetical County List ADC to House Inmates in Type II and III Facilities

³ Appendix C Average Daily Cost to House Inmates in Type II and III Facilities